

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 01045 141552Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 CU-02 ACDA-05 OIC-02 /077 W

----- 013082

P R 141408Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8640

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1045

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FI, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET ANXIETY OVER CSCE MAY AFFECT FINNISH DOMESTIC POLITICS

REF: HELSINKI 933 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. SOVIETS HAVE ALLEGEDLY TOLD FINNS THEY FEAR COUNTRIES WITH RESERVATIONS ABOUT CSCE MAY USE FINNISH DOMESTIC POLITICS AS EXCUSE TO DELAY AGREEMENT ON FINAL STAGE OF CONFERENCE. FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF THIS IS BACK PEDALLING ON DISCUSSION OF EARLY ELECTIONS -- HERETOFORE EXPECTED IN LATE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 01045 141552Z

SUMMER OR EARLY AUTUMN -- BY FOREIGN MINISTER AHTI KARJALAINEN

WHO MET GROMYKO DURING MAY 12 VISIT TO MOSCOW (HELSINKI 994 NOTAL). COINCIDENTALLY US CHARGE WAS CALLED IN BY HEAD OF RECENTLY REACTIVATED PHASE III WORKING GROUP TO RECEIVE MILD PROTEST RE STATEMENT IN ASST. SECY. HARTMAN'S RECENT CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY. END SUMMARY.

1. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO TOLD FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN IN MOSCOW LAST WEEKEND THAT PRESIDENT KEKKONEN OUGHT TO RE-THINK HIS ASSERTION IN RECENT LETTER TO PARTY LEADERS IN GOVERNING COALITION THAT FINLAND COULD HOLD EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS EVEN IF CSCE WAS IN OFFING. (HELSINKI 817 NOTAL). GROMYKO REPORTEDLY TOLD KARJALAINEN THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES WITH RESERVATIONS ABOUT SHAPE OF FINAL CSCE DOCUMENTS COULD USE FINNISH INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AS PRETEXT TO DELAY CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE.

2. BEFORE KARJALAINEN "BOMB-SHELL," WHICH HE UNLOADED AT CLOSED CENTER PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 13, THERE WAS GENERAL ASSUMPTION KALEVI SORSA'S COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON RESIGN, OR BE PULLED DOWN BY CENTER PARTY, AND NEW ELECTIONS CALLED FOR AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER REGARDLESS OF CSCE PROGRESS. THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, FINNISH PRESS REPORTS THAT "CSCE MAY AFFECT TIMING OF ELECTIONS AFTER ALL." KARJALAINEN IS IDENTIFIED IN PRESS AS SPONSOR OF "SURPRISING" SUGGESTION THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS BE HELD IN MARCH, 1976, THE NORMAL DATE FOR SUCH ELECTIONS, BUT SUGGESTION WAS NOT LINKED TO HIS USSR VISIT.

3. DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S EASY VICTORY BY 100-88 IN PARLIAMENTARY CONFIDENCE VOTE MAY 9, IT IS STILL CONSIDERED UNLIKELY THAT THE SORSA CABINET WILL SURVIVE MUCH LONGER, EVEN IF ELECTIONS ARE NOT HELD THIS YEAR. THUS AN EXPERT GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE A LONGER LIFE SPAN THAN PREVIOUSLY ENVISAGED. THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH BEGAN ANEW AFTER THE CONFIDENCE VOTE ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN SOME CONCRETE FORM NEXT WEEK.

4. COINCIDENTALLY, THE US CHARGE WAS CALLED IN ON MAY 13
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 01045 141552Z

BY AMBASSADOR JOEL PEKURI, HEAD OF THE RECENTLY REACTIVATED WORKING GROUP ON PREPARATIONS FOR CSCE STAGE III. PEKURI MADE MILD PROTEST RE ASST. SECY. HARTMAN'S RECENT TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN WHICH HE STATED THAT CSCE STAGE II MIGHT CONCLUDE ITS WORK IN JUNE AND THAT PHASE III COULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT COULD COMPLETE ITS PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTING IT. PEKURI EMPHASIZED THAT THE FINNS WERE

READY TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE AT ANY TIME AND IT WAS UP TO CSCE ITSELF TO SELECT THE DATES PHASE III WOULD TAKE PLACE. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT WE THOUGHT HARTMAN HAD SIMPLY MEANT THAT THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOME NOTICE OF THE PHASE III DATES IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE MAY PREPARATIONS REQUIRED FOR STAGING IT IN HELSINKI; HARTMAN CERTAINLY HAD NO INTENTION OF IMPLYING THAT THE FINNS THEMSELVES MIGHT BE A DELAYING FACTOR IN CONCLUDING CSCE.

5. IN FURTHER CONVERSATION PEKURI TOLD CHARGE THAT FINNS HAD REACTIVATED THE WORKING GROUP BECAUSE THEY SAW THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AS A CRUCIAL PERIOD FOR DETERMINING WHETHER JULY CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE IS POSSIBLE. BOTH AMBASSADOR PEKURI, FROM CAIRO, AND PRESS SECRETARY BERGQVIST, FROM THE FINNISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, ARE IN HELSINKI AND EXPECT TO REMAIN UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF MAY. THEY WOULD APPRECIATE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RECEIPT OF U.S. REQUIREMENTS ON HOUSING, COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. PEKURI GAVE ASSURANCE THAT FINNS WOULD NOT CONSIDER ARRIVAL OF ADVANCE GROUPS TO DISCUSS THESE TOPICS AS COMMITTING US IN ANY WAY REGARDING DATE FOR CONVENING PHASE III.
AUSTAD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN01045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750169-0483
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750554/aaaabwuq.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HELSINKI 933
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET ANXIETY OVER CSCE MAY AFFECT FINNISH DOMESTIC POLITIC S
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FI, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006